

### **REMARKS**

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on July 6, 2007. Applicants respectfully traverse (and do not concede) all objections, rejections, adverse statements, and adverse assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 88, 99, and 102 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 88-106 are presented for examination.

#### **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103**

Claims 88-97, 99, 100, and 102-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobsen et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,579,246 in view of Shiber in U.S. Patent No. 5,135,531, as evidenced by Hernandez et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,396,212. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claims 88-97, claim 88 is amended to recite a material disposed between the core wire and the tubular member and that the material at least partially fills at least some of the slots. The cited art, either alone or in combination, does not appear to teach or suggest these limitations. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 88 is patentable over the cited art. Because claims 89-97 depend from claim 88, they are also patentable for the same reasons as claim 88 and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

Regarding claims 99-100, claim 99 is similarly amended to recite that the guidewire is free of another coil between the core wire and the tubular member other than the radiopaque coil. The cited art, either alone or in combination, does not appear to teach or suggest these limitations. For example, Jacobsen et al. discloses two coils 532/538 within the tubular member 514. Based on this distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 99 is patentable over the cited art. Because claim 100 depends from claim 99, it is also patentable for the same reasons as claim 99 and because it adds significant elements to distinguish it further from the art.

Regarding claims 102-106, claim 102 is amended to recite that the core wire has an exterior surface, that the tubular member has a proximal end, and that the exterior surface of the core wire adjacent the proximal end of the tubular member is free of a coil. The cited art,

either alone or in combination, does not appear to teach or suggest these limitations. For example, Jacobsen et al. discloses a coil 508 adjacent the proximal end of the tubular member 514. Based on this distinction, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 102 is patentable over the cited art. Because claims 103-106 depend from claim 102, they are also patentable for the same reasons as claim 102 and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

Claims 98, 101, and 106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobsen et al. in view of Shiber, as evidenced by Hernandez et al. as applied to claims 88, 99, and 102 above and further in view of Kolehmainen et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,997,487. For the reasons set forth above, amended claims 88, 99, and 102 are believed to be patentable over Jacobsen et al. in view of Shiber, as evidenced by Hernandez et al. Kolehmainen et al. does not appear to overcome the shortcomings of the cited art. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 88, 99, and 102 are patentable over the combination of Jacobsen et al. in view of Shiber, as evidenced by Hernandez et al. and Kolehmainen et al., to the extent that such a combination is even possible. Because claims 98, 101, and 106 depend from claims 88, 99, and 102, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also patentable for the same reasons as claims 88, 99, and 102 and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

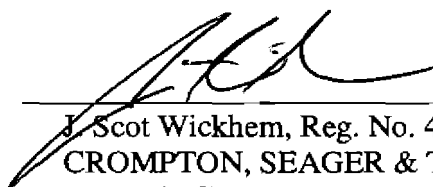
**Conclusion**

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,  
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By their Attorney,

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